

Dorian heads for Florida, could become highly dangerous Category 4 hurricane

The storm was forecast to approach on Saturday the northwest of the Bahamas, a popular tourist spot, the hurricane center said. Officials of the nation's northernmost island Grand Bahamas urged residents on Wednesday evening to secure houses and businesses immediately.

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Editor's Choice



A Palestinian boy bids farewell to his uncle, before the boy leaves Gaza with his mother, at Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip



U.S. President Donald Trump attends a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron (not seen) at the end of the G7 summit in Biarritz, France, August 26, 2019. Picture taken August 26, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Southern separatist fighters are pictured during clashes with government forces in Aden, Yemen August 29, 2019. REUTERS/Fawaz Salman TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Spanish director Pedro Almodovar is presented with the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement honour at the 76th Venice Film Festival in Venice



Women in procession dance outside a slavery memorial site near the Bodo river in Kanga Nianze village, in Tiassale, Ivory Coast, July 21, 2019. Men and women captured in Ivory Coast and sold into slavery 400 years ago would take their final bath in the river before being loaded onto ships.



Relatives hold portraits of servicemen, killed in conflict in eastern Ukraine as they attend a rally in front of the Russian embassy in Kiev



Senior leaders assigned to the U.S. Army's 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), participate in a training during a tactical leader's exercise at Eglin Air Force Base



A demonstrator holds a banner, during an anti-Brexit protest, outside the Houses of Parliament in London

London To Host First
MLB Games In Europe



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The Yankees and Red Sox will meet twice at London Stadium this weekend in the first Major League Baseball games ever played in Europe.
Why it matters: Since taking office four years ago, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred has vowed to increase baseball’s international presence, and the London Series is the league’s most ambitious effort yet.
•Previous trips abroad included Japan and Mexico, both of which have robust baseball cultures. By comparison, most people in the U.K. know next to nothing about the sport, something MLB views as both a challenge and an opportunity.
Details: MLB is making baseball education a priority this weekend, while also ensuring that fans get the true “ballpark experience.”

•**Education:** Explanations of certain plays will appear on the scoreboard, and concession stands will sell portable radios to help confused spectators follow along.
•**Experience:** Groundskeepers will dance to “Y.M.C.A.” ... Fans will sing “Sweet Caroline” ... “The Freeze” is flying in from Atlanta to chase down some fans ... There will be a mascot race between Freddie Mercury, Winston Churchill, King Henry VIII and the Loch Ness Monster.
Also, get this: Vendors walking up and down the aisle is a foreign concept to most Londoners, so concession workers have been trained on how to make fans feel comfortable paying from their seats.
“We’re going to ask people to hand their money down the row of

strangers and then have a bag of peanuts tossed over to them by a hawk. That’s not something they’re used to.”
—Charlie Hill, VP of MLB International (Via NYT)

Where they’ll be playing:



(Photo/PA Images via Getty Images)
London Stadium is a 60,000 seat stadium in the Stratford district that was built for the 2012 Summer Olympics and is currently home to West Ham United of the English Premier League.
•“The area on the ground, including the running track, is so vast that it required 141,900 square feet of artificial turf, imported from France, to cover it, plus the infield dirt and clay shipped in from Slippery Rock, Pa.”(NYT)
•“One unique feature is that home plate will be on one side of the oval — not one of the ends — creating vast amounts of foul territory. Most fields in oval-shaped stadiums, like the old Polo Grounds and Olympic Stadium in Montreal, had home plate tucked into one end, or in a corner.”

Related
**Baseball’s ‘Season Of Extremes’
Robot Umpires Are Coming To Baseball**

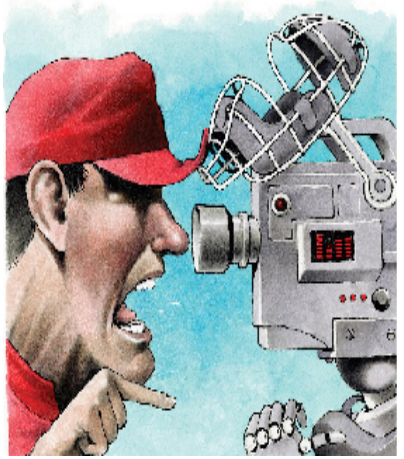


An electronic radar system called TrackMan will soon be calling balls and strikes in the Atlantic League, an independent East Coast league that has emerged as MLB’s testing ground for new rules and equipment initiatives.
Driving the news: The first step in this adventure began last Thursday at parks in Bridgewater, N.J. (Somerset Patriots) and New Britain, Conn. (New Britain Bees).
•**In a simple test** to make sure that TrackMan data could be successfully transmitted and understood, home plate umpires were fitted with earpieces that relayed calls to them one-tenth of a second after the ball crossed the plate.
•**The umpires were told** to still call “their” strike zone, leading to some confusion when their call didn’t match Trackman’s. When this goes live next month, they’ll be going with whatever TrackMan says.



The intrigue: Major League Baseball will be watching this experiment closely. A few things they’ll be looking for:
•**How will** hitters react when a pitch they think is a ball is called a strike by TrackMan? And how will pitchers react when the opposite is true?
•**How easily** can the zone can be adjusted so that it’s accurate from batter to batter, depending on their height and batting stance?
•**And most importantly,** will umpires be invested enough in each pitch to fill

the still-important role of calling things like checked swings and managing the flow of the game?
The big picture: In a world of instant replays and booth reviews, it’s not hard to imagine MLB eventually going this route. Should that day come, consider its impact on umpires and catchers, in particular:



Umpires: On one hand, they might be paid less as a result of their jobs becoming easier. Then again, maybe they wouldn’t be — all while never having to be yelled at again.
•**Catchers:** “Framing” (getting borderline pitches called for strikes) has become one of baseball’s most highly coveted baseball skills. TrackMan would make it a complete non-factor overnight. (Courtesy axios.com)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY / TIRZ NO.3
DOWNTOWN INNOVATION SPACE

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority / TIRZ No.3 (the “DRA”) will receive proposals from developers, landlords, brokers and other interested parties for a vibrant innovation space to become the center of gravity for technology and entrepreneurship in the northern node of the Houston Innovation Corridor, located in TIRZ No.3 in Downtown Houston, Texas. Proposals will be received until 5:00 PM, local time on Thursday, September 19, 2019 by Robert Pieroni, Director of Economic Development, 2 Houston Center, 909 Fannin, Suite 1650, Houston, Texas 77010. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Respective of this advertisement, telephone, mail, email queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority.
Beginning Monday, August 26, 2019, this project’s Request for Proposals (RFP) may be reviewed and downloaded as an electronic file from the Authority’s website: <http://www.downtowntirz.com>. A pre-submittal conference is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Thursday, September 12, 2019, to be held at the Authority’s offices. Following this conference, queries or requests for information will be addressed by the Authority, pursuant to the instructions provided in the RFP. Based on the Proposals submitted, an evaluation DRA selection committee. The findings and recommendations of the selection committee will be presented to the full DRA Board of Directors for final approval. The project will not move forward without full board approval.



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As automation gnaws at the economy, Fortune 500 companies have come out with training programs to prepare their workers for a future in which their jobs change significantly — or cease to exist at all.

Why it matters: Alongside those programs, a for-profit, training-as-a-service industry is emerging — firms that will come into your company and train everyone for you. Amazon, with its troves of data and cash, may be best positioned to dominate this new reskilling-in-a-box business.

The big picture: Around 90 million American workers will require some degree of new training to hold onto their jobs in the near future, says Andy Van Kleunen, CEO of the National Skills Coalition. “But companies and governments have barely figured out how to close skills gaps.”

“We know how to take someone with a college degree and teach them machine learning,” he says. “Taking someone who’s reading at an 8th grade level and training them for an IT job” is much more difficult.



The field of companies in the reskilling game is relatively narrow. “There are a couple of examples of bootcamps that are focused on a small set of tech skills,” but that’s it, says Matt Sigelman, head of Burning Glass Technologies, a labor analytics firm.

Driving the news: Amazon announced last week that it is putting \$700 million into training 100,000 employees, a third of its U.S. workforce, over the next six years. Broken down, that totals just \$1,077 per worker per year.

The bigger bet for Amazon — with its history of monetizing shipping, warehousing and data storage — would be to design a model

Can Amazon Save America From Automation?



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

that works for training and sell it to dozens of other firms.



Amazon training-in-a-box: Amazon tells Axios that it is focusing only on its own employees and is not out to create a standalone service for other firms. But experts say the signs — and logic — are there for the e-commerce giant to launch such a business, as it has already done with Marketplace, Fulfillment by Amazon and AWS. It arguably has already gotten started: Amazon has rolled out one of its training programs, Career Choice, to several companies across 13 countries. Through the program,

it partners with community colleges to train Amazon workers and place them in jobs ranging from dental hygienist to plumber to web developer.

Its advantage over other training companies is the same it has in other fights — data. The e-commerce giant can curate its training “on a warehouse-by-warehouse basis based on the data it has” on its massive pool of employees, says Sigelman, Burning Glass CEO.

It also knows what sorts of programs are most effective and how large or small the skills jumps are between certain jobs, he says.



The other side: “Selling commodities is easier to scale than training human beings,” says Van Kleunen, National Skills Coalition CEO.

If Amazon or other firms want to offer such services, “there’s a publicly-funded infrastructure of community colleges and schools that will be required to pull that off,” he added.

The bottom line: The potential market is huge. Per an analysis by the World Economic Forum, the cost to retrain 77% of U.S. workers at risk of displacement is \$20 billion. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related
European Union Opens
Antitrust Probe Of Amazon



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. (Photo/ AFP/Getty Images)

The EU said last Wednesday it would investigate how Amazon creates products, like AmazonBasics batteries or Solimo brand razors, that compete with offerings from outside merchants on its site.

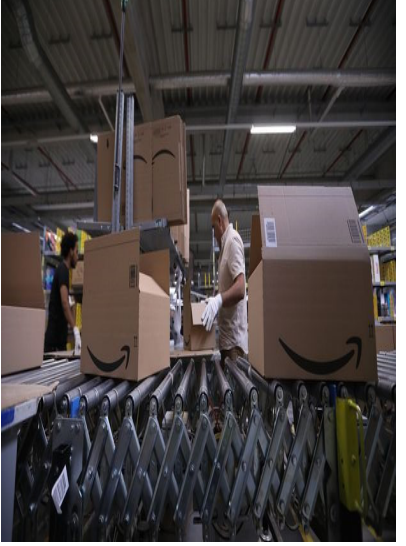
Why it matters: It’s a major new wave of scrutiny for the retail giant at a time when it is also under fire in the U.S.

Driving the news: Amazon’s critics have expressed concern that the company can use the data it gathers on merchants using its platform to develop its own house-brand products.

Then, critics say, Amazon, can give those products prime placement on the site.

EU Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said in a statement Wednesday that she had “decided to take a very close look at Amazon’s

business practices and its dual role as marketplace and retailer, to assess its compliance with EU competition rules.” (Courtesy axios.com)



The EU’s Amazon case could now help lay groundwork for growing interest among other regulators in investigating parts of a company that has a presence in many sectors. (Photo/Bloomberg News)



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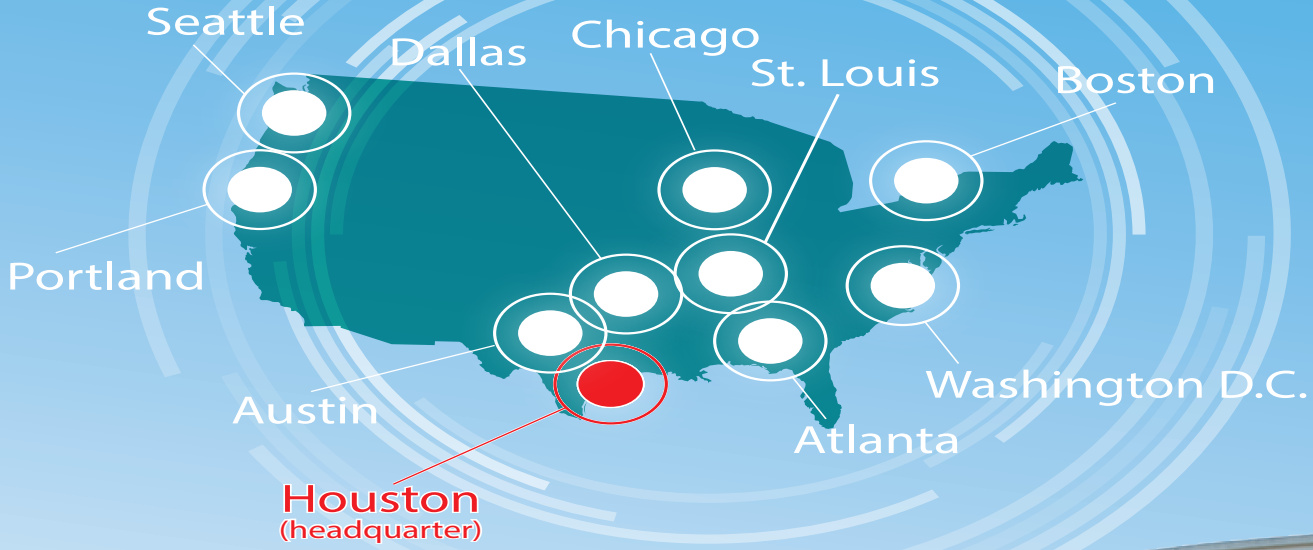
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